DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 106 035 RC 008 507

TITLE	Preliminary Analysis of the 1968-69 School Racial Census.
INSTITUTION	Michigan State Dept. of Education, Lansing.
PUB DATE	69
NOTE	19p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS	American Indians; Caucasian Students; Census Figures; Elementary Secondary Education; *Ethnic Distribution; Negro Students; *Parochial Schools; Professional Personnel; *Public Schools; *Racial Distribution; Spanish Speaking; *Student Enrollment; Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS	*Michigan

ABSTRACT

The Michigan Department of Education conducted a school racial census in the fall of 1968. Information was obtained about the racial composition of student bodies and staff by school buildings in both public and nonpublic schools. The 1968-69 school racial census was based on questionnaires returned from 4,538 individual schools which employed 109,304 professional staff to service 2,363,849 students. Of the 2.4 million pupils recorded, 86.3 percent were white, 12 percent Negro, 1.2 percent Spanish-surnamed, 0.3 percent American Indian, and 0.2 percent Oriental. Of the professional staff, 91.6 percent were white, 7.6 percent Negro, 0.4 percent Spanish-surnamed, 0.2 percent American Indian, and 0.2 percent Oriental. This preliminary report gives data on the: (1) racial and ethnic distribution of students and professional staff; (2) racial distribution of students in public and nonpublic school buildings of different racial composition; (3) racial and ethnic distribution of students and professional staff in nonpublic schools by denomination; and (4) communities with 50 or more Negro students in nonpublic schools. Comparison of public and nonpublic school enrollment in communities with concentrations of Negro students is also included. (NQ)

ED106035

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE 1968-69 SCHOOL RACIAL CENSUS

R008507

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 1969

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Introduction

In the Fall of 1968, the Department of Education conducted a school racial census which for the first time included nonpublic as well as public schools. As in the case of the first school racial census which covered only public schools, information was obtained about the racial composition of student bodies and staff by school buildings.

It is estimated that the 1968 school racial census accounts for 97 percent of the public school and nonpublic school populations. This high rate of return was made possible by the excellent cooperation of the public and nonpublic school officials. Their support testifies to their recognition that the problem facing all of us is an urgent one. While much has been done to eliminate discrimination and segregation in our national life, much more remains to be done.

Education is a state responsibility, and Michigan's Constitution and School Laws guarantee every citizen the right to equal educational opportunity, a right which is further strengthened by the U. S. Constitution and relevant U. S. Supreme Court decisions.

When for whatever reason students in educational programs are segregated, we know that the effectiveness of our equal opportunity guarantee is impaired to the detriment not only of the children involved but also to the state.

The analyses presented in this document are preliminary. Subsequent reports will deal with identifying specific further implications of the census data. It is anticipated that a full report which provides a more complete analysis of the school racial census data will be released early this Spring.

With the information contained in this document and in subsequent reports, all of us will be able to join in making the policy decisions needed if we are to meet our commitment to achieve equality of educational opportunity in Michigan.

Summary of Findings

The 1968-69 school racial census was based on questionnaires returned from 4,538 individual schools which employed 109,304 professional staff to service 2,363,849 students.

A. Racial distribution in all Michigan schools (Table I)

1. Of 2.4 million pupils recorded, 2.1 million or 86.3 percent were white; 287,254, or 12 percent were Negro; 29,641, or 1.2 percent were Spanish-surnamed; 6,492 or 0.3 percent were American Indian; and 4,248, or 0.2 percent were Oriental.

2. Of 109,304 professional staff reported in the survey, 100,177, or 91.6 percent were white; 8,337, or 7.6 percent were Negro; 389, or 0.4 percent, were Spanish-surnamed; 207, or 0.2 percent, were American Indian; and 194, or 0.2 percent, were Oriental.

B. Racial distribution in Michigan Public Schools (Table I)

1. Of 2.1 million pupils recorded, 1.7 million or 85 percent were white; 274,272, or 13.3 percent, were Negro; 24,933, or 1.2 percent, were Spanish-surnamed; 4,499, or 0.2 percent, were American Indian; and 3,793, or 0.2 percent, were Oriental.

2. Of 97,009 professional staff recorded in the survey, 88,25[illegible], or 91 percent, were white; 8,158, or 8.4 percent, were Negro; [illegible]309, or 0.3 percent, were Spanish-surnamed; 139, or 0.1 percent, were American Indian; and 148, or 0.2 percent, were Oriental.

C. Racial distribution in Michigan Nonpublic Schools (Table I)

1. Of 304,305 pupils recorded, 287,249, or 94.4 percent, were white; 9,953, or 3.3 percent, were Negro; 4,706, or 1.5 percent, were Spanish surnamed; 1,974, or 0.7 percent, were American Indian; and 423, or 0.1 percent, were Oriental.

2. Of 12,295 professional staff reported in the survey, 11,922, or 97 percent, were white; 179, or 1.5 percent, were Negro; 80, or 0.6 percent, were Spanish-surnamed; 68, or 0.5 percent, were American Indian; and 46, or 0.4 percent, were Oriental.

D. Racial distribution between public and nonpublic schools

1. Of the 284,225 Negro students reported in this survey, 274,272, or 96.5 percent, were in attendance at public schools and 9,953 Negro students, or 3.5 percent were in attendance in nonpublic schools in the Fall of 1968.

2. Of the 8,337 Negro professional staff in Michigan schools in the Fall of 1968, 8,158, or 97.9 percent, were in the public schools and 179, or 2.1 percent were in the nonpublic schools reported in this survey.

E. Racial distribution of students in school buildings of different racial composition: Public Schools

1. Of 3,666 separate public school buildings reported, 3.8 percent (141 buildings) had a student body of 95 percent or more Negro pupils.

2. Almost 56 percent of the reported public school buildings had no Negro pupils at all.

3. Almost four-fifths, or 8 out of 10 Negro public school pupils attend predominantly Negro schools (those with 50 percent or more Negro pupils).

4. Over one-half (56.3 percent) of all white public school pupils in Michigan attend schools where no Negro pupils are present.

F. Racial distribution of students in school buildings of different racial composition: Nonpublic schools

1. Of 862 separate nonpublic school buildings reported, .6 percent (5 buildings) had a student body of 95 percent or more Negro pupils.

2. Over 65 percent of the reported nonpublic school buildings had no Negro pupils at all.

3. Almost 51 percent, or one out of two, Negro nonpublic school pupils attend predominantly Negro schools (those with 50 percent or more Negro pupils).

4. Over 65 percent, or two out of three, white nonpublic school pupils attend schools where no Negro pupils are present.

G. Racial distribution of students and staff of nonpublic schools by denomination

1. Of the 304,305 nonpublic school students reported, 252,042 attended schools under Catholic sponsorship; 22,200 attended Christian schools; 19,300 attended schools sponsored by the Missouri Synod.

2. Of the 9,953 Negro pupils in the nonpublic schools reported, 8,600 attended schools under Catholic sponsorship; 764 attended nonpublic schools under Lutheran (Missouri Synod) sponsorship; and 101 attended Christian nonpublic schools.

3. Of 4,706 Spanish-surnamed pupils in nonpublic schools reported, 4,509 attended schools under Catholic sponsorship; 95 attended Christian nonpublic schools.

4. Of 1,924 American Indian pupils in nonpublic schools reported, 1,844 attended schools under Catholic sponsorship; 109 attended schools under Lutheran (Missouri Synod) sponsorship.

5. Of the 179 Negro professional staff in the nonpublic schools reported, 147 were in the Catholic nonpublic schools in the Fall of 1968.

H. Communities serving Negro pupils in nonpublic schools

1. Of 9,953 Negro students reported in nonpublic schools, 9,172 attended schools in 12 different communities.

2. Almost 75 percent (7,457) of the Negro nonpublic school students were in nonpublic schools in the city of Detroit.

I. Public-nonpublic Negro enrollment in communities with concentrations of Negro students

1. With the exception of Bloomfield Hills, East Grand Rapids, and Romulus, the percentage of Negro pupil representation in the public schools far exceeds the percentage of Negro representation in nonpublic schools. For example, while nonpublic schools in Detroit enrolled almost 75 percent of all Negro nonpublic school pupils reported, a comparison of public and nonpublic school enrollments indicates that 59.8 percent of the public school enrollment is Negro, while 11.5 percent of the nonpublic school enrollment is Negro.

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of Students and Professional Staff

Table I presents the racial and ethnic distribution of students and professional staff for both public and nonpublic schools. It also displays separately this information for public schools and nonpublic schools.

Professional staff in Table I includes teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, librarians and related staff. As seen in this table, Negro students comprise 12 percent of the total student enrollment in Michigan. Spanish-surnamed students make up the next largest minority with 1.2 percent, followed by American Indian with 0.3 percent and Oriental with 0.2 percent.

With regard to the Negro students, Table I shows that the majority of these students (96.5 percent) attend public schools, while 3.5 percent were in attendance in nonpublic schools in the fall of 1968.

Further, Negro pupils make up 13.3 percent of the total public school enrollment and 3.3 percent of the total nonpublic school enrollment.

With regard to the Spanish-surnamed students, Table I shows that these students comprise 1.2 percent of the Michigan school population. 84.1 of these Spanish-surnamed students are to be found in Michigan's public schools, with 15.9 percent being found in nonpublic schools. Spanish-surnamed students make up a slightly larger proportion of nonpublic school students (1.5 percent) than they do of public school students (1.2 percent).

Of the total professional staff provided to serve Michigan's school population, 91.6 percent are white, with 7.6 percent being Negro. Negro professional staff comprise 8.4 percent of the total public school professional staff and 1.3 percent of the total nonpublic school professional staff.

TABLE I
RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF 1968-69

TOTAL ENROLLMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

	Students		Professional Staff*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	2,039,296	86.3	100,177	91.6%
Negro	284,225	12.0	8,337	7.6
Spanish Surname	29,639	1.2	389	.4
American Indian	6,473	.3	207	.2
Oriental	4,216	.2	194	.2
Total	2,363,849	100.0	109,304	100.0%

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

	Students		Professional Staff*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	1,752,047	85.1	88,255	91.0%
Negro	274,272	13.3	8,158	8.4
Spanish Surname	24,933	1.2	309	.3
American Indian	4,499	.2	139	.1
Oriental	3,793	.2	148	.2
Total	2,059,544	100.0	97,009	100.0%

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

	Students		Professional Staff*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	287,249	94.4%	11,922	97.0%
Negro	9,953	3.3	179	1.5
Spanish Surname	4,706	1.5	80	.6
American Indian	1,974	.7	68	.5
Oriental	423	.1	46	.4
Total	304,305	100.0%	12,295	100.0%

* Professional Staff Includes: Teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals, Counselors, Librarians and Related Staff.

Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

Racial Distribution of Students in School Buildings of Different Racial Composition

Tables II and IIA present data on the way in which students are distributed in the 3,666 public schools and the 862 nonpublic schools which participated in this survey. For the purpose of this table, Michigan schools are divided into seven categories of racial compositions: those which have no Negro pupils at all; those with less than 1 percent Negro pupils; those with 1 percent or more but less than 5 percent Negro pupils; those with 5 to 14.9 percent Negro pupils; those with 15 - 24.9 percent Negro pupils; those with 50 - 94.9 percent Negro pupils; and those with 95 percent or more Negro pupils.

Public Schools

Turning to the figures for Michigan public schools in Table IIA, we see the extent to which public schools in Michigan fall into these seven categories. For example, 141 or 3.8 percent of all Michigan public schools have a racial composition of 95 percent or more Negro pupils. If we take 50 percent as one significant dividing point, we find that 7.8 percent of the public schools in Michigan have 50 percent or more Negro pupils in them. At the other end of the scale, we find that 56 percent of the public schools in Michigan have no Negro pupils at all.

Table IIA also indicates that almost four-fifths, 8 out of 10 Negro pupils, attend schools that are predominantly Negro schools (those with 50 percent or more Negro pupils). On the other hand, over one-half (56.3 percent) of all white pupils in Michigan attend schools where no Negro pupils are present.

Nonpublic Schools

Turning to the figures for Michigan nonpublic schools in Table II, we see the extent to which nonpublic schools in Michigan fall into the seven categories of racial compositions. For example, 5 or .6 percent of all Michigan nonpublic schools have a racial composition of 95 percent or more Negro pupils. If we take 50 percent as one significant dividing point, we find that 3.7 percent of the nonpublic schools in Michigan have 50 percent or more Negro pupils in them. At the other end of the scale, we find that 65 percent of the nonpublic schools in Michigan have no Negro pupils at all.

Table II also indicates that 51 percent or one out of two Negro pupils attend nonpublic schools that are predominantly Negro schools (those with 50 percent or more Negro pupils). On the other hand, over 65 percent or two out of three white pupils in Michigan nonpublic schools attend schools where no Negro pupils are present.

TABLE II
RACIAL DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF DIFFERENT RACIAL COMPOSITION 1968-69

RACIAL COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS	TOTAL STUDENTS		WHITE & OTHER* STUDENTS		NEGRO STUDENTS		NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 Negro Students	193,393	63.5	193,393	65.7	---	---	562	65.2
Less Than 1%	45,002	14.8	44,793	15.2	209	2.1	84	9.7
1 - 4.9%	31,641	10.4	30,891	10.5	750	7.5	87	10.1
5.0 - 14.9%	18,635	6.1	17,198	5.8	1,437	14.4	53	6.1
15.0 - 24.9%	5,341	1.8	4,371	1.5	970	9.7	26	3.1
25.0 - 49.9%	3,878	1.3	2,349	.8	1,529	15.4	19	2.1
50.0 - 94.9% (1)	5,310	1.7	1,345	.5	3,965	39.9	26	3.1
95.0% + (2)	1,105	.4	12	---	1,093	11.0	5	.6
Total	304,305	100.0%	294,352	100.0%	9,953	100.0%	862	100.0%

* Other includes: American Indian, Spanish Surname and Oriental Students.

(1) Twenty-three of the schools with 50 - 94.9% Negro Enrollment are in Detroit, one in Saginaw, one in Flint, and one is in Redford.

(2) The five schools with 95% + Negro enrollment are in Detroit.

Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

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Preliminary

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TABLE IIA

RACIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF DIFFERENT RACIAL COMPOSITION

RACIAL COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL BUILDING	TOTAL STUDENTS		WHITE & OTHER* STUDENTS		NEGRO STUDENTS		NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
0% Negro Students	1,005,707	48.8	1,005,707	56.3	---	---	2,049	55.9
Less than 1%	336,651	16.4	335,250	18.8	1,401	.5	554	15.1
1 - 4.9%	182,076	8.8	177,678	10.0	4,398	1.6	357	9.7
5.0 - 14.9%	133,154	6.5	121,232	6.8	11,922	4.4	220	6.0
15.0 - 24.9%	76,879	3.7	61,642	3.5	15,237	5.6	101	2.8
25.0 - 49.9%	67,748	3.3	41,865	2.3	25,883	9.4	98	2.7
50 - 94.9%	138,405	6.7	38,473	2.1	99,932	36.4	146	4.0
95% +	118,924	5.8	3,425	.2	115,499	42.1	141	3.8
Total	2,059,544	100.0	1,785,272	100.0	274,272	100.0	3,666	100.0

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* Other includes: American Indian, Spanish Surname and Oriental Students.

Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of Students and Professional Staff in Nonpublic Schools by Denomination

Table III presents the data on the racial composition of students and professional staff in nonpublic schools. It indicates 252,000 of the state's 304,000 nonpublic school students attend schools under Catholic sponsorship. Christian Schools, under the sponsorship of the Dutch Reformed Church, provide the next largest enrollment group with 22,200 students, followed by the Lutheran sponsored schools, Missouri Synod, with 19,300 students.

Table III also presents the data on nonpublic professional staff distribution by denomination. It indicates that of the total of 179 Negro professional staff in the nonpublic schools, the overwhelming majority (147) are found in the Catholic nonpublic schools.

Of the almost 10,000 Negro students in the nonpublic schools, 8,600 are enrolled in Catholic nonpublic schools.

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TABLE III

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY DENOMINATION 1968-69

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY DENOMINATION

	CATHOLIC		CHRISTIAN		LUTHERAN (MISSOURI)		LUTHERAN (WISCONSIN)		SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST		OTHER*		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
White	236,766	93.9	21,982	98.9	18,343	95.1	2,124	99.8	1,858	93.6	6,176	93.1	287,249	94.4
Negro	8,613	3.4	101	.5	764	4.0	1	---	80	4.0	394	5.9	9,953	3.3
Spanish Surname	4,529	1.8	95	.4	36	.2	3	.2	23	1.2	20	.3	4,706	1.5
American Indian	1,844	.8	9	---	109	.5	---	---	8	.4	4	---	1,974	.7
Oriental	290	.1	38	.2	41	.2	---	---	15	.8	39	.6	423	.1
Total	252,042	100.0	22,225	100.0	19,293	100.0	2,128	100.0	1,984	100.0	6,633	100.0	304,305	100.0

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL STAFF BY DENOMINATION

	CATHOLIC		CHRISTIAN		LUTHERAN (MISSOURI)		LUTHERAN (WISCONSIN)		SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST		OTHER*		TOTAL	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
White	9,493	96.6	957	100.0	757	97.8	90	100.0	153	100.0	472	95.2	11,922	97.0
Negro	147	1.5	---	---	13	1.7	---	---	---	---	19	3.8	179	1.5
Spanish Surname	76	.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4	1.0	80	.6
American Indian	64	.6	---	---	4	.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	68	.5
Oriental	45	.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	46	.4
Total	9,825	100.0	957	100.0	774	100.0	90	100.0	153	100.0	496	100.0	12,295	100.0

* Other includes: Private Unaffiliated Institutions, Baptist, Methodist Schools

Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

Communities With 50 or More Negro Students in Nonpublic Schools

Table IV presents data for communities in which Negro pupils attend nonpublic schools. For purposes of this analysis, those communities were selected in which 50 or more Negro students were in attendance in nonpublic schools.

Of the 9,953 Negro students in nonpublic schools, 9,172 attended schools with 50 or more Negro students in 12 different communities. 7,457 Negro nonpublic school students, or 74.8 percent, were in nonpublic schools within the city of Detroit.

The percentage of Negro pupils in nonpublic schools in these 12 communities varied from 1.3 percent in the nonpublic schools in Grand Rapids to 18.3 percent in Romulus. They attended school in 282 buildings out of a total reported of 862 nonpublic school buildings.

The 781 other Negro pupils reported in nonpublic schools attended school in 580 school buildings.

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TABLE IV
COMMUNITIES WITH 50 OR MORE NEGRO STUDENTS IN
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1968-69

COMMUNITY	TOTAL STUDENTS		WHITE & OTHER STUDENTS*		NEGRO STUDENTS		NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Detroit	64,908	100.0	57,451	88.5	7,457	11.5	146
Saginaw	6,711	100.0	6,217	92.6	494	7.4	22
Flint	4,673	100.0	4,394	94.0	279	6.0	12
Grand Rapids	17,780	100.0	17,542	98.7	238	1.3	52
Muskegon	3,178	100.0	3,029	95.3	149	4.7	14
Bloomfield Hills(1)	2,881	100.0	2,771	96.2	110	3.8	7
Kalamazoo	4,869	100.0	4,772	98.0	97	2.0	13
Pontiac	1,657	100.0	1,575	95.0	82	5.0	5
Lansing	3,536	100.0	3,458	97.8	78	2.2	8
River Rouge	695	100.0	618	88.9	77	11.1	1
E. Grand Rapids	529	100.0	468	88.5	61	11.5	1
Romulus	273	100.0	223	81.7	50	18.3	1
Total	111,690		102,518		9,172		282
Remainder of State	192,615		191,834		781		580
Grand Total	304,305		294,352		9,953		862

* Other includes: American Indian, Spanish Surname and Oriental.

(1) Includes students at private boarding schools.

Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

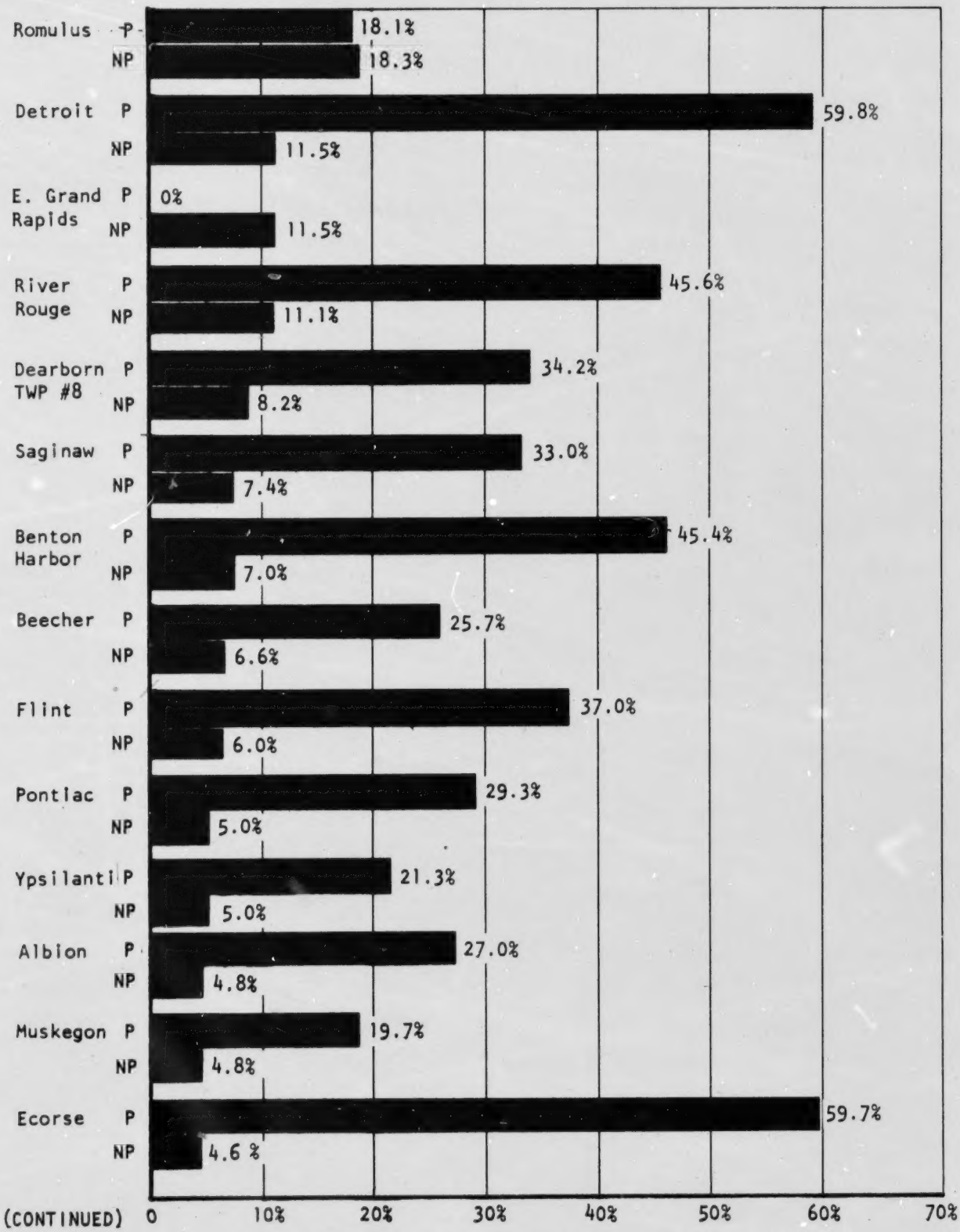
Comparison of Public and Nonpublic School Enrollment in Communities With Concentrations of Negro Students

Table V provides a comparison between public and nonpublic schools in communities with significant numbers of Negro students. For the purposes of this analysis, all of the communities which contained 50 or more Negro students in nonpublic schools and those public school districts with significantly large Negro populations were compared (those districts with at least 10 percent Negro enrollment).

With the exception of three communities, Romulus, Bloomfield Hills and East Grand Rapids, the percentage of Negro representation in the public schools far exceeds the percentage of Negro representation in the student bodies of nonpublic schools. For example, while nonpublic schools in Detroit enrolled 74.8 percent of all Negro nonpublic school students, a comparison of public and nonpublic school enrollments indicates that 59.8 percent of the public school enrollment is Negro, while 11.5 percent of the nonpublic enrollment is Negro.

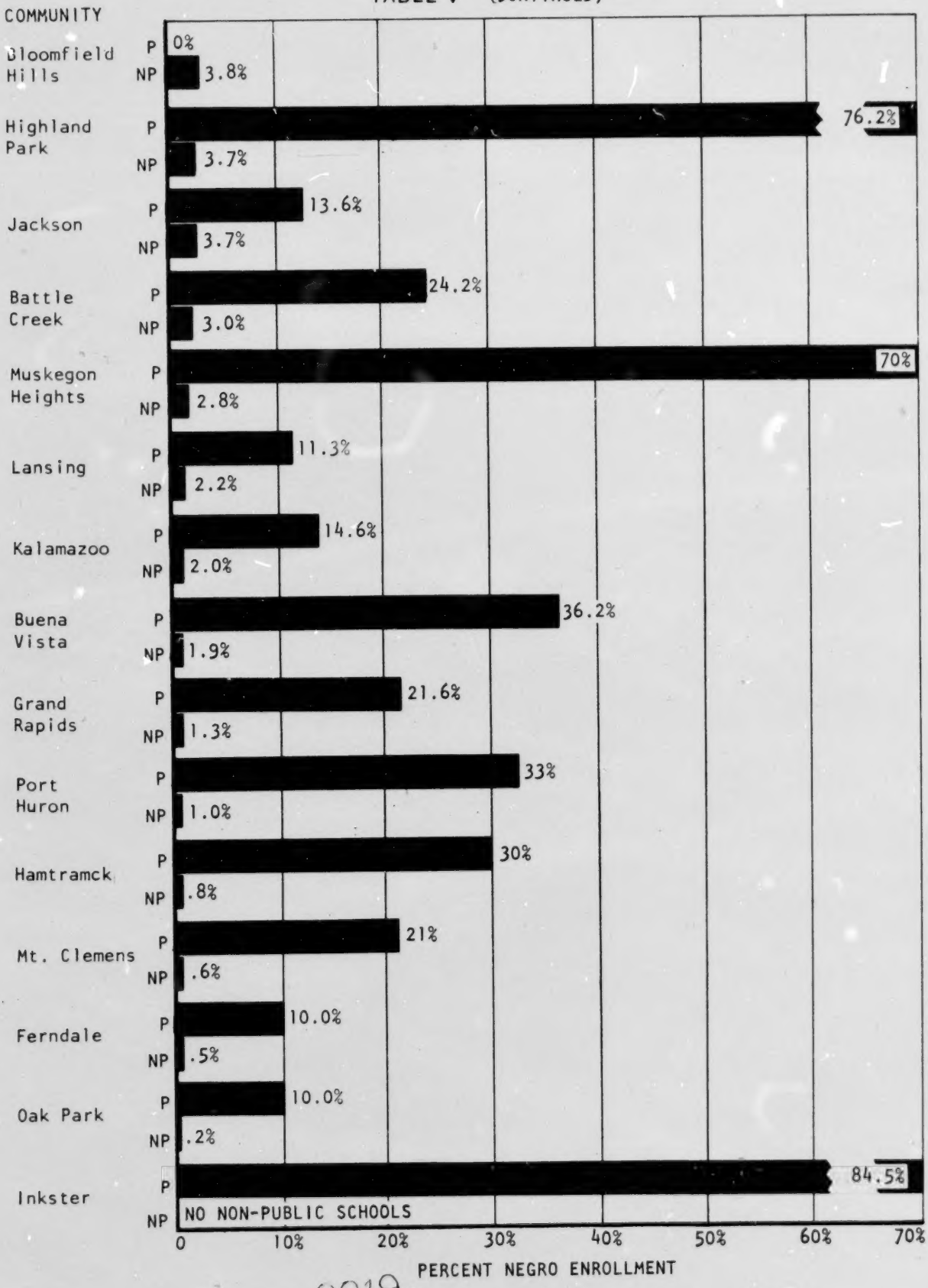
TABLE V

PERCENT COMPARISON OF PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC ENROLLMENT IN COMMUNITIES WITH CONCENTRATIONS OF NEGRO STUDENTS 1968-69



Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68

TABLE V (CONTINUED)



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Source: Michigan Department of Education Racial Census 10/68